MMR_0189 Charles Dyxin Sr. died in Spring of 2002

Charles J. Dyxin, 83, a longtime troubleshooter for Western Electric and a nationally known model railroad craftsman, died of congestive heart failure Wednesday, May 22, in his Chicago home. Mr. Dyxin was born and raised on Chicago's Northwest Side.

He studied engineering and architecture at what was then De Paul Academy before serving as a sergeant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War II. Mr. Dyxin was part of a team that helped set up a communications system for the railroad that the U.S. built from Iran to deliver military aid to Russia.

After the war, he returned to Chicago and started working for Western Electric, staying 43 years as an installer. "When there was a problem, he was the guy they went to," said his daughter, Carrie Matheson. Mr. Dyxin spent his free time honing his skills as a model train builder.

He was known nationally for his work, said his daughter. "He was an artist," added Bob Wiedrich, a longtime friend. Mr. Dyxin and his late wife, Lenora, timed their summer vacations with model train conventions around the country, said his daughter.